Implementation of Central Projects

620. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 46 Central projects have either been dropped or frozen due to resource constraints;

(b) if so, why such a situation has arisen especially in infrastructure sector and is their any time-frame when these projects would be revived; and

(c) how many Central Projects are under implementation during the current year and is there any time-run or cost over-run in such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) As on 31.3.2000, 52 projects have been frozen/dropped. Of these, 3 projects have been sold out to private sector; one project has been mechanically completed but closed due to technology failure; 3 projects have been replaced; 2 projects have been completed and 6 have been leased.

(b) Funds constraint is the main reason for projects in the infrastructure sector, particularly in the Railways and Surface Transport, being frozen/dropped or given low priority for the time being. However, some of these projects, particularly in the Telecommunication sector, due to change in policy/planning, are being executed on leased basis. Geo-mining problems have also affected some of the projects in the Coal Sector. Some of the frozen projects have also become unviable *due* mainly *to* economic and market conditions and hence put on the frozen list. These may not be revived.

(c) As on 31.3.2000, there are 473 central projects under implementation. Of these, 216 projects have time and cost overrun.